Chilean Junta Move Crushing Revolutionary Leftist Plans

By Joseph Novitski
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SANTIAGO, Nov. 23—Chile's Revolutionary Leftist Movement, a clandestine guerrilla group which had claimed the lead in internal resistance to the military junta here, is being rolled up like old carpeting in a ferocious campaign by government intelligence services.

Since the battle between the junta and the MIR(as it is known for its Spanish initials) entered its hottest phase early this month, the group's leader has been killed and an unknown number of activists has been arrested. More than 30 revolutionaries have sought asylum in foreign embassies, abandoning the battle in a move that has no recent precedent in other South American countries where clandestine leftist groups have fought military dictatorships.

According to the sketchy evidence available, Chilean internal intelligence services have followed every lead to detain and interrogate people with any connection to MIR members. This tactic, used several years ago against Brazilian urban guerrilla groups, tends to spread fear among possible supporters, sympathizers or family relations, cutting them off from the guerrillas.

Church groups engaged in relief work among Chilean political prisoners have noted an increase in the number of dententions of nonactivists: family members, former school chums and men and women who are suspected of having sheltered MIR members in the past.

There have been no proven reports of torture being used in the interrogations of nonactivists. But church groups and foreign observers believe that interrogators use torture in questioning activists. In internal government conversations, the use of torture is said to be justified as a necessity.

SALVADOR ALLENDE
. . . MIR to his left

The Revolutionary Leftist Movement grew from a group of student radicals at a private university in the southern city of Concepcion. It was a clandestine guerrilla group in the late 1960s and emerged as a party to the left of the late President Salvador Allende. The MIR never joined his government, and sometimes embarrassed it with terrorist activities.

After the military coup 14 months ago, in which Allende died, the MIR announced from abroad its plans for internal resistance. Inside Chile, there were occasional signs of MIR activity in the form of tiny hand-lettered pamphlets. The government occasionally announced the seizure of arms caches it identified with the Guerrilla group.

The all-out sweep against the hidden urban guerrillas began in late September, after the MIR publicly refused the offer of a truce that it said had come from the Chilean air force intelligence service.

There was a lull in October, apparently. Then on Nov. 1, MIR guerrillas robbed a Santiago bank. It was the first known act of armed resistance.

Four days later, government forces surrounded a house in a working-class suburb here and killed Miguel Enriquez, the 30-year-old secretary general of the movement.

The MIR swore, in a statement distributed in other South American countries, that the fight would go on. But a few days after Enriquez died, another MIR leader, Humberto Sotomayor, sought political asylum at the Italian embassy. About 30 of the 240 refugees in that embassy are believed to be MIR members, and diplomatic sources report that some of the 22 refugees currently in the Colombian embassy also belonged to the organization.

Another activist, Lumi Videla, 26, was found dead inside the grounds of the Italian embassy residence Nov. 3, provoking a scandal and a judicial investigation.

Italian diplomats told Chilean police the dead woman had not been among the refugees in the embassy the night before. Her body appeared just inside the embassy fence during the 4½-hour curfew, during which only police and military patrols are allowed on the streets.

The cause of Mrs. Videa's death was entered on her death certificate as "state of asphyxiation." The circumstances have remained uncler.

The MIR, in a letter to the Italian embassy signed by Andres Pascal, successor to the dead Enriquez, claimed Mrs. Videla had been murdered by government agents. The government newspaper La Patria suggested she had been killed inside the embassy during a lover's quarrel. The paper hinted at orgies among MIR members in the embassy.

Records of the Santiago appeals court show that Mrs. Videla's mother filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for her daughter on Oct. 3, one month before she was found dead. In the petition, the mother said her daughter had been arrested on Sept. 22.

There has been no confirmation that the dead woman was in government custody because authorities did not answer the court's request for information on her.

Suspected Guerrillas Arrested in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 23 (UPI)—Argentine security forces have arrested hundreds of guerrilla suspects in a nationwide crackdown on clandestine armed leftist, police sources said today.

In th northwestern province of Salta, a right-wing Peronist, Jose A. Mosquera, replaced the elected governor, Migue Sagone, who was summararily dismissed yesterday for having leftist tendencies.

Police, armed with search powers under the state of siege declared Nov. 6, arrestd hundreds of prsons and found arms caches belonging to the Marxist People's Revolutionary Army, police said.

Presidnt Isabel Peron inaugurated construction of a national pantheon, describing it as a "veritable oasis of peace," to hold th coffin of her late husband, Juan Peron and his scond wife Eva, along with other heros.